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Mandatory Review

Case # NLJ 97-399

Document # 12a

Status of Merchant Shipping in North Korea
as of 1100 31 January 1968

31 January 1968

1.5(c)(d) 12a
3.4(b)(1)(6)

1. The last known locations of North Korea's five merchant ships (all dry cargo ships) are given below.* Four of these ships probably are attached to the fishing fleet. The other operates in the coastal trade. None has been detected in international trade, but two of the ships may have made voyages to the China coast.

a. Wisung Ho (1,500 GRT) -- a dry cargo ship in the coastal trade. May have made voyages to Communist China. Tentatively identified in Wonsan [REDACTED] 3 November 1967.

b. Plyong Hwa (1,935 GRT) -- a dry cargo ship attached to the fishing fleet. Previously may have sailed to China. Identified in [REDACTED] Wonsan of 26 January 1968.

c. Paektu-San (7,218 GRT) -- a fish factory ship probably based in Kimchaek. Located in Kimchaek [REDACTED] 3 November 1967. On 27 January 1968 was identified by a North Korean submarine chaser at 9.6 nautical miles south of Yongdaegap, near Sinpo.

d. MAG I (1,987 GRT) and MAG II (1,909 GRT) -- refrigerator ships attached to the fishing fleet. One was tentatively identified in Kimchaek [REDACTED] 12 December 1967, and one was tentatively identified [REDACTED] Wonsan of 26 January 1968.

2. The last known locations of the three Polish-flag dry cargo ships operated by the Joint Korean-Polish Ship Brokers' Co. (Chopolship) are given below. These are ships previously owned and operated by Polish Ocean Lines, and presumably are still Polish owned. The Mickiewicz is under time charter to Chopolship and has a mixed Polish-North Korean crew. The others probably are under time charter to Chopolship also, but the composition of their crews is unknown.

a. Adolf Warski (6,718 GRT) -- departed Chongjin 30 December enroute Poland. Departed Penang 20 January.

b. Mickiewicz (4,344 GRT) -- Probably arrived Hungnam 11 January and departed Hungnam 26 January after loading cargo for Djakarta, Karachi, and Huangpu to be transhipped at Singapore. On 31 Jan 0111Z was at 26:27N, 121:35E (opposite Foochow, China). ETA Singapore 4 February 1968.

* A sixth North Korean merchant ship, the refrigerator ship Daesong San, launched on 5 October 1967, was located at Nampo on 26 January 1968. This ship of approximately 2,000 GRT is still apparently being fitted out.

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c. Narvik (7,065 GRT) -- Departed Santiago 21 Jan 1420Z. ETA Guantanamo 21 January. To load sugar for North Korea.

3. The following foreign merchant ships are in North Korean ports:

In Chongjin

Bucaresti (Rumanian--9224 GRT) arrived 22 January, ETD 31 January.

Eishu Maru (Japanese--1,992 GRT) In port 25 January. To return to Chongjin 18 February to load cargo, including 12 tons graphite.

Pundus (British--7,295 GRT) ETA 24 January under North Vietnamese Time Charter. To load lighters and heavy lifts for Haiphong after having loaded fertilizer for North Vietnam in Hungnam.

Werner Seelenbinder (East German--8,003 GRT) ETA Chongjin 28 January. May load zinc and clinkers.

In Hungnam

Tiksi (Soviet--9,501 GRT) Arrived 28 January from Nampo.

Yana (Soviet--3,231 GRT) Arrived 26 January to load cement.

In Nampo

Gornoultaysk (Soviet--3,725 GRT) in port 26 January to load coal for Japan. ETD 28-29 January.

Kovrov (Soviet--9,250 GRT) in port 26 January.

Vyatkales (Soviet--3,261 GRT) Loading cement for Sakhalin.

4. The following foreign merchant ships are scheduled to arrive in North Korea:

Byzantion (Greek 7,276 GRT) ETA Hungnam 21 February, probably from Kosseir, UAR.

Genkai Maru (Japanese 2,346 GRT) ETA Nampo 10 February.

Hanoi (Polish 6,914 GRT) ETA Yokohama 25 January. ETA North Korea 7 February.

Heiyo Maru (Japanese 2,373 GRT) ETA 8 February. To load foundry pig iron.

Keihan Maru (Japanese ----GRT) ETA North Korea 1 February to discharge pitch coal.

Kotoku Maru (Japanese 2,278 GRT) ETA Hungnam 20 February.

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London (Greek 2,538 GRT) Departed Karachi 25 January with 2,509 tons unspecified cargo for North Korea.

Metelowiec (Polish 10,876 GRT) ETA Chongjin 1 February, to load 1,250 tons of magnesite.

Novorossiysk (Soviet 7,716 GRT) Lend-lease vessel enroute from Cuba to Nampo. Exited the Panama Canal on 29 January. Probable ETA 5 March 1968.

Perekop (Soviet -- 11,089 GRT) In Japan as of 21 January. Directed to depart Yokohama and arrive Chongjin in January.

Shoto Maru (Japanese 1,055 GRT) ETA North Korea 3 February.

Simba (Greek 5,957 GRT) ETA Nampo 1 February.

Taishu Maru (Japanese ---GRT) ETA Chongjin 10 February.

Tokasago Maru (Japanese 2,579 GRT) ETA Chongjin 8 February.

Yamasho Maru (Tkr) (Japanese 199 GRT) ETA Chongjin 8 February.

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